

Message Text

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14-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, CH

SUBJECT: BELGONUCLEAIRE PARTICIPATION IN THE BELGIAN INDUSTRIAL
EXHIBITION IN PEKING (C-SI-5-58913)

REF: STATE 085553

1. BELGONUCLEAIRE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE BELGIAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN A JOINT EXHIBIT WITH FIVE OTHER MEMBER FIRMS OF THE

BELGIAN UNION OF NON-FERROUS METALS INDUSTRIES. LOCATED RATHER INCONSPICUOUSLY ON THE MEZZANINE ABOVE THE MAIN EXHIBITION HALL, BELGONUCLEAIRE'S PORTION OF THE JOINT EXHIBIT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING: 1) DISPLAY PANELS SHOWING FLOW-SHEETS FOR THE FIRM'S NUCLEAR POWER FABRICATION PLANT AT DESSEL, BELGIUM, AND FOR A NUCLEAR POWER STATION LIQUID RADIOACTIVE WASTE PROCESSING AND INSOLUBILIZING UNIT; 2) PHOTOGRAPHS OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE PROCESSING, PLUTONIUM FUEL AND NUCLEAR REACTORS; AND, 3) TWO METAL PARTS OF A FAST REACTOR ASSEMBLY. THE ONLY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT SHOWN IS A GLOVE BOX FOR PLUTONIUM FACILITIES.

2. NO LITERATURE ON BELGONUCLEAIRE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS AT THE EXHIBIT, BUT A SHORT, CHINESE LANGUAGE BROCHURE ON THE SIX MEMBER FIRMS (INCLUDING ONE PAGE ON BELGONUCLEAIRE) WAS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT A DISCUSSION ROOM NEAR THE DISPLAY.

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WE WILL FORWARD A COPY OF THIS PUBLICATION BY POUCH.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE REFTTEL, A USLO OFFICER ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT BELGONUCLEAIRE'S CHIEF REP AT THE EXHIBITION, MARKETING MANAGER CLAUDE DESCHAMPS, ON APRIL 17, BUT FOUND HE HAD LEFT PEKING FOR PARIS THE PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER, BELGONUCLEAIRE REPS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION'S TECHNICAL LECTURE SERIES AND LEFT AFTER THEIR PART IN THE PROGRAM WAS COMPLETED.

4. COMMENT: BELGONUCLEAIRE'S MINIMAL DISPLAY AND THE FACT THAT ITS REPS LEFT PEKING EARLY SEEMS TO INDICATE ONLY A LIMITED EFFORT BY THE FIRM TO USE THE EXHIBITION AS A VEHICLE FOR ADVANCING ITS INTEREST WITH CHINA. WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ON THE FIRM'S ACITIVITIES IN PEKING BUT WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION THAT IS DEVELOPED BY OTHER ADDRESSEES.
HOLDRIDGE

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